

From: Mark Proctor
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse
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I work for Cisco systems within the UK, while not being a US citizen this case has far reaching proportions and will effect the IT industry on a global scale. I would right pages and pages of how I think the current settlement does nothing to re-balance the wrongs of Microsoft, I have included just a few of these detailed briefly below.

Windows Bundling - The Microsoft Tax

I use GNU/Linux a free operating system. The fact that I cannot buy without great difficulty a machine, from one of the main computer dealers, without a copy of windows is disgusting - you try buying a dell desktop machine, a great computer, without a copy of windows, they just will not do it and I will not pay extra for something that I will not use.

Proprietary Formats, Protocols and API

Microsoft's proprietary formats, such as their famous .doc word documents, and SMB file sharing protocol not forgetting their kerberos extensions are affronts on society - they at every single point hold back society technological development and create customer "lockin" by not allowing interoperability . I believe that all formats, protocols and APIs should be open and that closed proprietary ones should be made illegal - there are never any reasons for this other than customer lock in.

Artificially Narrow Restrictions

It is vital when enforcing these that no loopholes are available by artificially narrow restrictions. The open source movement - including products like OpenOffice, Wine, Samba, Kerberos and Linux - are on the verge on ushering in a new technological era - it is vital that any remedies specifically look after the interests of these projects, that exist for no other reason that public benefit and not corporate greed, and ensure they are capable for getting full unrestricted access and use to these formats, protocols and APIs.

These are my own words, but I would like to add that I strongly agree with everything with the following open letter.
<http://crossover.codeweavers.com/mirror/www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html>

Yours Sincerely,

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